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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001670

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2013

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SUBJECT: ITALY ON THE SIERRA LEONE SPECIAL COURT: WE'RE BROKE

REF: STATE 94991

CLASSIFIED BY: A/POL MC GARY ROBBINS FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

11. (C) POLOFF COORDINATED DELIVERY OF REFTEL DEMARCHE WITH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY. MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR WEST AFRICA, SEBASTIANO FULCI, WAS FRANK IN HIS RESPONSE TO OUR (AND THE UNSYG'S) REQUEST FOR MORE SUPPORT: ITALY DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS. WHAT LIMITED GOI FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR AFRICA AS A WHOLE TEND TO GO TOWARDS THE HORN OF AFRICA. MR. FULCI, NEW TO THE JOB IN SEPTEMBER 2002, NOTED THE GOI CHOSE TO FINANCE ECOWAS IN THE IVORY COAST THIS YEAR FOR ABOUT 110,000 EURO, SOAKING UP MONEY THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE SLSC DONATION.

12. (C) FULCI POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJORITY OF ITALIAN FOREIGN-AID FUNDS ARE RESERVED BY LAW FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE USED TO FINANCE THE COURT. WHEN POLOFF POINTED OUT THE COURT SUPPORTS THE RULE OF LAW, NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FULCI SIMPLY SMILED AND REPEATED THAT ITALIAN LAW PROHIBITED THE USE OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR THE COURT. WHILE HE PERSONALLY DESIRED THAT THE GOI SPEND MORE MONEY IN WEST AFRICA, IT SIMPLY WAS NOT NOW AVAILABLE.

13. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
SEMBLER

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